



Michael W. Hagee
General, U.S. Marine Corps

A Message from the Commandant of the Marine Corps



During these first few years of the 21st century, the Marine Corps has displayed to our nation and to the world the meaning and importance of “expeditionary.” From Afghanistan to the Horn of Africa, from Iraq to Liberia, we have confirmed the value of readiness in answering the nation’s most urgent calls. Time and again, the Marine Corps has demonstrated the speed, flexibility, and adaptability that America demands from her Armed Forces during this dangerous and uncertain time.

That we have been able to meet these challenges in an unrivalled manner is a tribute to our Marines, who embrace our service culture, core values, and warrior ethos. They are the heart and soul of our organization, and are the keys to making the Corps one of the world’s finest fighting

forces. The sacrifices by our Marines over the past years – including, for some, the ultimate sacrifice – have highlighted the Marine Corps’ commitment to selfless service and our Marines’ sense of duty to their country.

Our dedication to keeping warfighting excellence as our main effort and has produced our rich warrior legacy. The current global strategic challenges will continue to demand that Marines are ready to engage in an environment of chaos and uncertainty. To prevail on tomorrow’s battlefields, we must continue to intelligently implement new concepts, employ new organizational tools, and field modern weapons and systems. As has been the case for more than 228 years, a spirit of innovation will continue to be carefully cultivated in order to fully leverage the capabilities of our

adaptive Marines as a key element of an integrated joint force.

With our Navy partners, the Marine Corps plans to bring to life innovative concepts such as (Seabasing) that hold the promise to provide a critical joint competency for assuring access and greatly improving our Nation's security. Implementation of the sea basing concept will markedly increase and transform the way America deploys its forces in peacetime, crisis, and war, and how it employs them in combat. Our innovation will also be apparent as we absorb new systems such as the MV-22, the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle, and the Joint Strike Fighter into our force structure, using them to enhance the already potent combat power of our Marine Air-Ground Task Forces.

This 2004 version of *Concepts & Programs* describes our major programs and how they support the ideas and concepts that are significantly enhancing the ability of our naval expeditionary forces to project sustainable combat power in the 21st century. *Concepts & Programs* also contains data that provides a snapshot of our people, organization, and resources. This information provides an important reminder of what it takes – along with an unwavering warrior ethos and devotion to duty – to create and maintain a successful fighting force.

Semper Fidelis,



Michael W. Hagee
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